

**Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation
Environmental Assessment**

Operator: MRC LLC
Well Name/Number: Weaver 15-24
Location: SW SE Section 24 T26N R15E
County: Chouteau MT; Field (or Wildcat) Wildcat

Air Quality

(possible concerns)

Long drilling time: No, 3 to 4 days drilling time.

Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig): No, small single derrick drilling rig to drill to 875' TD.

Possible H2S gas production: None anticipated.

In/near Class I air quality area: No Class I air quality area.

Air quality permit for flaring/venting (if productive): Yes, DEQ air quality permit required under 75-2-211.

Mitigation:

Air quality permit (AQB review)

Gas plants/pipelines available for sour gas

Special equipment/procedures requirements

Other: _____

Comments: No special concerns – using small rig to drill to 875' TD.

Water Quality

(possible concerns)

Salt/oil based mud: No, freshwater, freshwater mud system.

High water table: No high water table anticipated.

Surface drainage leads to live water: No, closest drainage is an unnamed ephemeral tributary drainage Little Birch Creek, an ephemeral drainage, about 3/8 of a mile to the southwest and 1/4 of a mile to the east from this location. Closest live water is a stock pond, about 5/8 of a mile to the west from this location.

Water well contamination: No, closest water wells are about 1/2 of a mile and 5/8 of a mile to the northwest from this location. Depth of these wells are 229' and 275'. This well will have surface hole drilled with freshwater and freshwater mud system. Surface casing will be run and cement to surface from 300'. If productive 4 1/2" production casing will be run and cemented to surface.

Porous/permeable soils: No, sandy bentonitic soils.

Class I stream drainage: No Class I stream drainages nearby.

Mitigation:

Lined reserve pit

Adequate surface casing

Berms/dykes, re-routed drainage

Closed mud system

Off-site disposal of solids/liquids (in approved facility)

Other: _____

Comments: Freshwater mud systems to be used to drill surface hole and mainhole. 7" surface casing will be run and cemented to surface from 300'. 4 1/2" production casing will be run and cemented to surface, if well is productive.

Soils/Vegetation/Land Use

(possible concerns)

Stream crossings: No, no stream crossings anticipated.

High erosion potential: No, moderate cut, up to 13.5' and small fill, up to 1.5', required.

Loss of soil productivity: No, location will be restored after drilling, if nonproductive. If productive unused portion of drillsite will be reclaimed.

Unusually large wellsite: No, small 250'X250' location size required.

Damage to improvements: Slight, surface is cultivated land.

Conflict with existing land use/values: Slight

Mitigation

Avoid improvements (topographic tolerance)

Exception location requested

Stockpile topsoil

Stream Crossing Permit (other agency review)

Reclaim unused part of wellsite if productive

Special construction methods to enhance reclamation

Other _____

Comments: Access will be over existing county road, Cow Island Trail and Eagleton Road. An access will be built off an existing county road into this location, about 1mile. Drilling fluids will be allowed to dry in the pits. Drill cuttings and solids will be allowed to dry in the unlined pit. Pit will be backfilled when dry. No special concerns.

Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences: Closest residence is about 5/8 of a mile to the northwest from this location.

Possibility of H2S: None anticipated.

Size of rig/length of drilling time: Small drilling rig/short 3 to 4 days drilling time.

Mitigation:

Proper BOP equipment

Topographic sound barriers

H2S contingency and/or evacuation plan

Special equipment/procedures requirements

Other: _____

Comments: No concerns. Adequate surface casing and operational BOP should mitigate any problems. Distance and topographical features should mitigate any noise issues.

Wildlife/recreation

(possible concerns)

Proximity to sensitive wildlife areas (DFWP identified): None identified.

Proximity to recreation sites: None identified.

Creation of new access to wildlife habitat: No

Conflict with game range/refuge management: No

Threatened or endangered Species: Only species listed as threatened or endangered are the, Pallid Sturgeon and Black-Footed Ferret. Candidate species are the Greater Sage Grouse, Sprague's Pipit and the Whitebark pine. NH Tracker website lists the

following species of concern (3) Black-tailed Prairie dog, Burrowing Owl and the Greater Sage Grouse,

Mitigation:

- Avoidance (topographic tolerance/exception)
- Other agency review (DFWP, federal agencies, DSL)
- Screening/fencing of pits, drillsite
- Other: _____

Comments: Private surface cultivated lands. No concerns.

Historical/Cultural/Paleontological

(possible concerns)

Proximity to known sites: None identified

Mitigation

- avoidance (topographic tolerance, location exception)
- other agency review (SHPO, DSL, federal agencies)
- Other: _____

Comments: Private surface cultivated lands. No concerns.

Social/Economic

(possible concerns)

- Substantial effect on tax base
- Create demand for new governmental services
- Population increase or relocation

Comments: Wildcat gas well. No concerns.

Remarks or Special Concerns for this site

Well is a 875' Eagle Formation test.

Summary: Evaluation of Impacts and Cumulative effects

No long term impacts expected. Some short term impacts will occur, but can be mitigated in a short time frame.

I conclude that the approval of the subject Notice of Intent to Drill (does/**does not**) constitute a major action of state government significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, and (does/**does not**) require the preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Prepared by (BOGC): /s/ Steven Sasaki
(title:) Chief Field Inspector
Date: August 30, 2011

Other Persons Contacted:

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, GWIC website
(Name and Agency)
Chouteau County water wells
(subject discussed)
August 30, 2011
(date)

US Fish and Wildlife, Region 6 website
(Name and Agency)
ENDANGERED, THREATENED, PROPOSED AND CANDIDATE SPECIES
MONTANA COUNTIES, Chouteau County
(subject discussed)
August 30, 2011
(date)

Montana Natural Heritage Program Website (FWP)
(Name and Agency)
Heritage State Rank= S1, S2, S3, T26N R15E
(subject discussed)
August 30, 2011
(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:
Inspection date: _____
Inspector: _____
Others present during inspection: _____